

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-33 are pending. Claims 1, 5-7, 11-14, 18-20, 24-28 and 31, which are independent, are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 14-16, 18, 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over EP 0 993 185 A2 to Lownes, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Lownes") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,442,452 to Ryu (hereinafter, merely "Ryu").

Claims 3 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Lownes in view of Ryu and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,815,631 to Sugiyama, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Sugiyama").

Claims 7-10, 11, 13, 20-24 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Lownes in view of Ryu and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,020,916 to Gerszberg, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Gerszberg").

Claims 6, 12, 19 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Lownes in view of Ryu and further in view of Gerszberg and Official Notice.

Claims 28-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Lownes in view of Ryu and Gerszberg and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,848,240 to Yamamoto (hereinafter, merely "Yamamoto").

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

"An image processing apparatus, comprising:...

a control section for controlling, when an instruction to temporarily stop the playback of the image data is received, said playback section and said transmission section to stop the playback and the transmission of the image data, respectively, and further controlling said transmission section to transmit a message representing that the playback of the image data is temporarily stopped to said reception apparatus through said transmission line,

wherein the control section establishes on said transmission line, a first channel for transmission of said image data and a second channel for transmission of said message."
(Emphasis added)

As understood by Applicant, Lownes relates to a television receiver which receives an ATSC multi-program stream for a single major channel and generates a status display which displays the major channel identifier and a plurality of indicators, each corresponding to a respective one of the minor channels associated with the major channel. The television receiver is also coupled to a digital VCR via a digital communications link. The

digital television receiver generates a control panel for the digital VCR on the display device of the television receiver, and includes a facility for receiving commands for the digital VCR, sending the commands to the digital VCR via the digital communications link displaying the current status of the digital VCR.

As understood by Applicant, Ryu relates to a sound mode switching method for multichannel selection. A video tape recorder uses a first step of making judgments on the selections of a multi-voice mode setting key and a main picture switching key, a second step of deciding the sound mode and for storing the sound mode data into a memory, a third step of making a judgment on the selection of a channel for the main picture and for outputting the selected multi-voice mode signals, and a fourth step of replacing the sub-picture. A device for multichannel selection comprises a microcomputer, a multi-voice mode selecting circuit, and a multi-voice module. During a multichannel selection, independent sound signals can be outputted for the respective channels under a multi-voice mode.

As understood by Applicant, Gerszberg relates to an apparatus and methods for video teleconferencing with a plurality of parties, as well as for providing multimedia on-hold information. A videophone may be used to view and communicate with the parties simultaneously and/or individually. Link maps may also be displayed indicating the topography of the conference call links. The links may be rearranged and/or otherwise controlled by touching a touch-screen display on the videophone.

Sugiyama relates to a method and apparatus for controlling an audio video system having a number of AV devices so as to cause power to be turned off to the AV devices upon the occurrence of predetermined events.

Yamamoto relates to a multi-media terminal apparatus which is connected to other multi-media terminal apparatuses via a transmission line capable of transmitting a plurality of channels.

Applicant submits that Lownes, Ryu, Gerszberg, Sugiyama and Yamamoto, taken either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the above identified features of claim 1. Specifically, Lownes, Ryu, Gerszberg, Sugiyama and Yamamoto do not teach or suggest an image processing apparatus comprising a control section wherein the control section establishes on said transmission line, a first channel for transmission of said image data and a second channel for transmission of said message, as recited in independent claim 1.

The Office Action asserts that Yamamoto “discloses a transmission line having a plurality of channels (see abstract) to send a plurality of signals in the same transmission line.”

However, the present invention teaches that image data and a message (two different forms of data) are transmitted through different channels but on the same transmission line.

Yamamoto does not teach or suggest transmitting image data and message data on different channels on the same transmission line.

Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 5-7, 11-14, 18-20, 24-27 28 and 31 are also believed to be patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent on an independent claim discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION


In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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